

Two soldiers killed; Special Forces assault Taliban sites

By Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Ground forces, including Army Rangers, operating under U.S. Central Command struck two terrorist sites inside Afghanistan Oct. 19, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff confirmed.

Department of Defense officials said two soldiers, Spc. John Edmunds and Pfc. Kristofer Stonesifer, were killed in a Blackhawk helicopter accident in Pakistan.

Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said during a Pentagon briefing that the troops struck and destroyed an airfield in southern Afghanistan and a Taliban command and control center near Kandahar.

"U.S. forces were able to deploy, maneuver and operate inside Afghanistan without significant interference from Taliban forces," Myers said, adding that the troops did encounter "light resistance."

Myers showed video clips of special forces troops to Pentagon reporters.

The video clips showed servicemen packing individual bags, loading onto transport



aircraft and later jumping out of those aircraft for an airborne assault inside Afghanistan.

The video was taken at night with night-vision equipment, Myers explained. He noted that the servicemembers found and destroyed a small weapons cache at the airfield.

Myers refused to disclose how many troops were involved or any more details of how they got into or out of Afghanistan, saying only that "they accomplished their objective."

Part of the forces' mission was to collect intelligence, he said.

"One of the things I simply can't do is talk about any of the tactics, techniques and procedures that we used beyond what you've seen on that tape," Myers said. "If I were to divulge that, then the next time we conduct an operation somewhere in this world people would have an understanding of how we operate."

Myers dismissed outright Taliban claims that they shot down the helicopter in which two soldiers died.

"I think it's pretty well established the Taliban lie," he said. "Any claims they shot this helicopter down are

absolutely false."

He said the crash is classified as an "aircraft mishap" and is currently being investigated.

He speculated the crash may have resulted from reduced visibility from landing in large amounts of flying dust at night.

The chairman expressed his sympathy for the families of the two soldiers killed.

"They, and all who are participating in Operation Enduring Freedom, are heroes. They put their lives on the line on behalf of freedom and on behalf of America. And they do it each and every day," Myers said.

President George W. Bush, speaking in China where he is attending the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum, said, "I want to assure the loved ones that the soldiers died in a cause that is just and right, and that we will prevail.

"These soldiers will not

have died in vain," he said.

Myers also said five others were injured in the night's missions—three on the helicopter that crashed in Pakistan, and two others during the airborne landing.

He said none of the servicemembers had life-threatening injuries.

Meanwhile, air operations continued as well.

Roughly 100 strike aircraft hit 15 planned targets, including anti-aircraft artillery sites, ammunition and vehicle storage depots and military training facilities.

Myers had words of high praise for all the troops involved in these operations.

"The credibility of any of the senior leadership in the services rests really with the professionalism and the way our young forces members conduct themselves day in and day out," he said. "They have never let us down."

"They, and all who are participating in Operation Enduring Freedom, are heroes. They put their lives on the line on behalf of freedom and on behalf of America. And they do it each and every day."

Gen. Richard Myers
chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

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From the top

AFSPC on alert for suspicious mail, substances

By Capt. Sean McKenna
Air Force Space Command Public Affairs

Air Force Space Command installations remain vigilant in light of several national anthrax attacks over the last three weeks.

Recent incidents at two AFSPC bases have driven that home.

Suspicious packages delivered to two Peterson AFB offices Oct. 22 were identified, isolated by security forces, examined by bioenvironmental personnel and ultimately declared safe. On Oct. 15, the Patrick AFB, Fla., commissary was closed after a suspicious white powder was found near a food crate. Field tests later showed no harmful substances were present.

"This is a serious concern that no one in the command is taking lightly," said Lt. Gen. Roger DeKok, AFSPC vice commander. "Security forces and bioenvironmental experts at all of our bases are thoroughly trained to handle these situations."

Bioterrorism fears have heightened since the anthrax-related deaths of a Florida man Oct. 5 and two Washington, D.C., postal workers Oct. 21 and 22, as well as the contamination of several people who handled or opened mail laced with anthrax.

Although the large majority of the suspected material has proven to be harmless in subsequent tests, both national and local officials are erring on the

side of caution and request that all suspicious situations be reported.

Mail-handling procedures

Each base information transfer center, or post office, has established stringent mail-handling guidelines for postal workers and those people who regularly pick up mail. For information on these guidelines, call BITS at 556-4865.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, people should take several steps after finding a suspicious package, including:

isolating and looking for indicators such as no return address, mailed from a foreign country, excessive postage, misspelled words, strange odor, noticeable stains, and excessive taping;

not treating roughly, opening, smelling or tasting the contents; and

calling security forces at 556-4000 or local police at 911.

The FBI also advises that if a package has been opened and a threat is identified, the following steps be taken:

For suspected biological or chemical agents including anthrax, isolate the package by covering it up, then call the base fire department at 556-7354 or security forces at 556-4000. If off base, call local police at 911. Immediately wash hands with soap and warm water.

For a suspected bomb, evacuate the area immediately and call base security forces or local police.

For a suspected radiological threat, limit exposure and evacuate the area, then call security forces or local police.

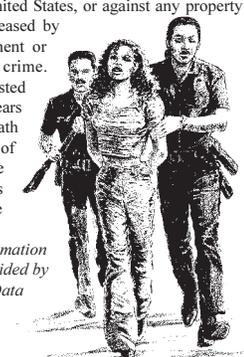
Mail pranks no laughing matter

Under U.S. law it is a serious crime to use or attempt or threaten to use a weapon of mass destruction, which anthrax legally falls under. This would include pranks such as placing flour inside an envelope.

According to Col. Jarisse Sanborn, AFSPC staff judge advocate, U.S. Code 18, Section 2332a states that the definition of weapons of mass destruction includes "any weapon involving a disease organism" and "any biological agent, toxin or vector," such as anthrax.

The statute states that any WMD threat against an American outside the United States or against anyone within the United States, or against any property owned, used or leased by any U.S. department or agency, is a crime. Punishment is listed as "any term of years or for life." If death occurs as a result of the offense, the death penalty is also a possible sentence.

(Some Information for this story provided by the FBI's Bomb Data Center and AFSPC/JA)



News in Brief

Lane closure

The outbound lane of the west gate will be closed periodically today.

Trick-or-treat times

Family housing residents who are planning to go trick-or-treating Oct. 31 can do so from 5:30-8 p.m.

Children are encouraged to carry a flashlight and wear light colored or reflective clothing.

Daylight savings

Service members are reminded to set their clocks back one hour Saturday.

Crime stoppers

Because of recent terrorist incidents in the United States, the Air Force Office of Special Investigations Detachment 803 at Peterson Air Force Base is asking the military community

to report any and all suspicious activity immediately.

If you see suspicious activity and you need to reach an AFOSI agent immediately, call the Crime Stoppers Hotline at 556-4357.

Harvest of Love

The Annual Care and Share KRDO Harvest of Love food drive begins next month, and volunteers are needed for various positions. Peterson complex volunteers are needed Nov. 13-16, and 19-21.

Those interested can volunteer to drive military pickup vehicles, support pickup teams, work in the warehouse sorting and packing food, or work in the warehouse yard helping pickup teams unload and sort food.

To volunteer to drive and work on

one of the pickup teams, call Senior Master Sgt. Neal Thatcher, 554-3046 or e-mail to neal.thatcher@Peterson.af.mil. To work in the warehouse or the warehouse yard, call Senior Master Sgt. Brian Gauthier at 474-3907 or e-mail to brian.gauthier@cheyennemountain.af.mil. To help contact schools to schedule pickup dates, contact Master Sgt. Lisa Wagoner at 556-1710.

For more information about the program, contact Master Sgt. D.K. Grant, 556-6491.

MCEC presentation

The Military Child Education Coalition will have a presentation Monday, 1 p.m., at the Family Support Center.

For more information, call the Family Support Center at 556-6141.

Airman's Attic hours

The Airman's Attic is now open Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. For details, call 556-3215.

AFSA donations

The Air Force Sergeants Association, Chapter 1181, is collecting items to donate to different organizations.

Items include old or unused greeting cards to be sent to a children's rehabilitation center, old or unused stamps to be sent to the Children of America foundation and food coupons to be sent to bases overseas.

Items may be dropped off at the Mission Support Facility, Building 350.

For more information on the AFSA or the organizations it supports, log on to www.afsahq.org.

Space Observer

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Submitting Action Lines

The Action Line (556-7777 or fax 556-7848) is your direct link to me. It provides an avenue for you to voice concerns, share ideas or provide some constructive criticism.

Action Lines can make Peterson a better place to live and work.



Brig. Gen. Bob Kehler

Stop Loss update

By Capt. Richard K. Wagner
21st Mission Support Squadron

Stop Loss was enacted by the Secretary of the Air Force in support of Noble Eagle and to support any other follow-on operations.

All retirements and separations between Oct. 2, 2001 and May 1, 2002 for colonels and below in all Air Force Speciality Codes have been suspended.

Personnel with previously approved retirement or separation dates after May 1, 2001 will still retain their dates in the system, but they will be unable to retire unless Stop Loss has ceased or their retirement or separation is approved by Air Force Personnel Center.

There are a few automatic exemptions from Stop Loss. Those with disability separation retirements, members being separated for cause, members who have already made arrangements to ship household goods on or before Oct. 1, 2001 or who have been approved to depart on terminal leave or transition permissive TDY which is immediately followed by terminal leave on or before Oct. 1, 2001, members currently serving on an overseas unaccompanied tour where the tour length is 15 months or less and who will be retiring

or separating at port, mandatory retirements, members being processed for hardship discharges, and a few that pertain only to colonels.

Members who have had their retirement or separation cancelled in the system should not consider this permanent.

There are three options members effected by Stop Loss can exercise. The first allows members with an already approved separation or retirement date to request a waiver through their chain of command that the MAJCOM/ CV approve their release.

The second allows personnel to apply for separation or retirement in conjunction with a request for waiver release from Stop Loss.

The last option allows personnel to apply with the understanding that, if approved, they won't be allowed to separate or retire until Stop Loss is over.

In addition, commanders may initiate a waiver if the member is not or will not be needed in support of current operations, or retention of the member would not be in the best interest of the Air Force.

For inquiries regarding Stop Loss policies and procedures contact Tech. Sgt. John Sunderman at 556-9211 or 2nd Lt. Christy DeLuca at 556-7525.

Soldiers and Sailors Relief Act information

The Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act provides a wide range of protections for individuals entering or called to military active duty, including legal and financial protections.

The SSCRA gives courts the discretion to delay a civil court proceeding, and protection against judgments being entered against members whose military service prevents them from participating.

If a judgment is entered, there are steps that a military member can take to re-open and undo inappropriate actions.

Additionally, members with debts prior to coming on active duty may be eligible for a six percent interest rate.

This rate would apply while the member remained on active duty. Members are also protected from having their property repossessed without a court order, if they entered into a contract before coming on active duty.

For both of the above, members need to show that their ability to make the payments has been materially effected by military service.

The SSCRA also protects military members from being evicted from their rental housing, without a court order, where the rent is less than \$1,200 per month. The court may delay eviction proceedings for up to three months.

Creditors and insurers may not take action against military members who exercise their rights under the SSCRA, such as notifying credit agencies, denying credit, or changing terms.

If you have any questions about whether the SSCRA applies to you, call the legal office at 556-4871 for more information.



President Bush talks to Travis military people, family

By Staff Sgt. Mark Diamond
60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

President George W. Bush visited Travis Air Force Base, Calif., Oct. 17 with a message not only for the base's men and women in uniform, but for their families, as well.

Although the president was speaking directly to the people at Travis, his message could as easily have been directed at military people and families worldwide.

Bush spoke of his confidence in America's servicemembers. The U.S. military's real strength lay not in aircraft weapons systems, but in the men and women who fly them and maintain them and "the people who make the military go," he said.

He also discussed the current campaign against terrorism, and told the families of deployed servicemembers that their loved ones were on a noble mission.

"The planes to the left and right of where we stand here represent the unmatched air power of the United States," Bush said. "But that's not our real strength. The real strength of this proud nation is the men and women who wear the uniform. That's the real strength of this country."

Bush told military people here that America is proud of their deeds, their talents and their service to country.

He also reflected on the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on America, and said, "When you strike one American, you strike us all.

"The victims of Sept. 11 were innocent, and this nation will never forget them," Bush said. "The men and women who murdered them were instruments of evil, and they have died in vain. This nation is strong. This nation is united. This nation is resolved. This nation will defeat terror wherever we find it across the globe.

"And make no mistake about it; this great nation will do what it takes to win," he said. "We are determined. We are patient. We are steadfast. We are

resolved. We will not tire and we will not fail."

Although Bush spoke of America's confidence in their military men and women, he made it clear that military families also play a role in this campaign against terrorism.

"... to the families of those of you whose mom or dad or husband or wife have been deployed, I want you to know that they're on a noble mission. The cause is just, and we will win," Bush said.

"And one thing I fully understand is that when American forces answer the call of duty, they count on their families for support and encouragement," he said. "Every deployment brings uncertainty and, I know, every deployment brings worry and concern. Our military is made up of brave men and women, and brave families, as well."

Although most of the people here waited for hours for a chance to see their president and encountered an standing-room-only viewing area, spirits were high and Bush's words were obviously well received.

With each statement from the president, the Travis crowd erupted in applause.

Tech. Sgt. Matthew Baloun, a trombone player for the U.S. Air Force Band of the Golden West, said Bush's speech was both inspiring and comforting.

"It was especially nice to hear [the president] acknowledge the dedication we all share here in defending our country," Baloun said.

The mission of the band is to build troop morale and preserve a nation's heritage, Baloun said. In only 20 minutes, President Bush did with words what it would take his band a year to accomplish.

"I'm just proud I was a part of it all," said Baloun.

Master Sgt. Wilmer Cristobal of the 60th Civil Engineer Squadron here agreed and said that it was nice to hear the president show his appreciation for American military men and women, and he could tell Bush meant every word he said.

Cristobal, like many others, said he was especially inspired by the story Bush told about the son

of a Travis servicemember.

During his speech, the President said he had heard that the 4-year-old son of a deployed Travis servicemember has been telling the neighbors that, "Daddy is saving the world."

"The boy is right," Bush said. "The future of the world is at stake. Freedom is at stake. But I want to tell that boy his daddy has got plenty of help. There are a lot of people like his daddy fighting this war."

Senior Airman Carrie Manka of the 60th CES said she stood in line for five hours to hear her commander-in-chief speak, and following his departure, she teamed up with dozens of other civil engineers to help tear down several large platforms used during Bush's visit.

"It was all worth it," said Manka, one of few who shook hands with the president.

Manka described it as "very personal."

"[President Bush] looks at you in the eye when he shakes your hand," she said. "He looked me in the eyes, shook my hand and said 'hi.' I could tell he really cared about what he was doing."

The president urged the audience to fight back by standing fast.

"We must not let the terrorists cause our nation to stop traveling, to stop buying, to stop living ordinary lives," he said. "We can be alert and we will be alert, but we must show them that they cannot terrorize the greatest nation on the face of the earth. And we won't. We will not be terrorized, we will not be cowed.

"The [terrorists] have struck us," Bush said. "They've tested our mettle and tested our character. But they are going to find that this nation understands we've reached a pivotal moment in history, where we will plant our flag on the ground — a flag that stands for freedom — and say to anybody who wants to harm us or our friends or allies, you will pay a serious price, because we're a nation that is strong and resolved and united."

Biological attack: Don't panic, know facts

Learn to recognize symptoms, prepare to fight disease

By Staff Sgt. Eric Grill
Air Force Print News

Officials from the 59th Medical Wing at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, want people to know that despite recent accounts of anthrax cases being reported since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, there is no reason to panic.

"While people know how to react to terrorists' bombs, people do not know how to deal with diseases," said Maj. Caroline De Witt, acting chief of infectious diseases for the 59th MDW at Wilford Hall Medical Center.

"We are here to reassure people that many of these diseases are treatable if caught early," De Witt said. "The military has been studying possible agents of bioterrorism for a very long time, and we've had years of training to prepare for events like a biological attack."

Education is the key to abating some of the fears that people may have about infectious diseases, DeWitt added.

People have been going to military surplus stores and buying gas masks because of that fear, but DeWitt said biological agents like anthrax have inoculation periods, and "gas masks won't apply."

While there is a nationwide concern about some sort of biological attack by terrorists, De Witt said that both civilian and military medical officials are ready, and the nation has spent years developing a national pharmaceutical stockpile.

Any of the military services have detailed readiness plans and are able to augment public readiness officials if needed, De Witt said.

Some of the diseases medical officials are watching for include anthrax, smallpox and plague, De Witt said. Smallpox was eradicated worldwide and routine vaccination was stopped around 1980. Therefore, many people remain susceptible to the disease.

Anthrax is produced by the bacteria "bacillus anthracis." A tough protective coat allows the bacteria to survive for decades as spores.

Anthrax is dangerous because it is highly lethal if not caught in time. It is one of the easiest biological agents to manufacture and relatively easy to develop as a weapon.

Anthrax spores, while extremely difficult to aerosolize as a weapon, can be easily spread over a large area, and easily stored.

The disease also has an incubation period of one to six days between exposure and symptoms, officials said.

Because of this, De Witt said, "There is reason for a heightened sense of alert, but be assured that panic is not needed. Very few (biological) agents can be transferred human to human, and many of the diseases are benign and can be treated easily, if caught early."

Anyone who suspects that they have come into contact with a suspicious substance should report it to authorities immediately, De Witt said. The earlier it is reported the better chances of determining what that substance is.

De Witt said that these people should not take any medicines without seeking medical attention first.

"Professionals doing the field tests will let a person know whether they've been exposed or not," she said.

"Field tests can be done quickly and easily to determine if a person was exposed to a biological agent," De Witt said. But, it takes about 24 to 48 hours



Photo by R. D. Ward

Maj. Timothy Ballard (right) prepares to administer the final shot in the six-dose series of anthrax inoculations to the former Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen (left) in September 1999. Because of recent events around the world, Anthrax is again becoming a threat.

to confirm what that biological agent is."

While it sounds like a good idea to have a stockpile of medicines in a persons' medicine cabinet, DeWitt said she advises against it. Such medicines have side effects that can be dangerous if not taken properly, taken by a child, or taken by someone who is pregnant, she explained.

For more information about anthrax, contact local medical professionals, or go online to the Department of Defense anthrax Web site.



Diego Garcia: Paradise in the Indian Ocean

The Navy calls Diego Garcia it's best kept secret, for good reason. The weather is typical of a tropical island, with highs in the 80s and lows in the 70s year round.

The island has some of the best morale, welfare and recreation facilities in the world. Every type of water sport imaginable is available here. Deep-sea fishing, sailing, water skiing, and wind surfing are readily available at the island marina. The warm waters and abundant coral provide an excellent habitat for all types marine life, making this an excellent location for snorkeling enthusiasts. On any day you're likely to see sea turtles, eels, stingrays, and a wide variety of brilliantly colored fish.

Athletic and sports enthusiasts will find intramural leagues in all the same sports you find at stateside bases. Many people enjoy a good game after work, either playing or cheering on their favorite team. It's a good time to meet others on the island and to relax and socialize.

The British own the island and the base is under United States Navy control, but the Air



Courtesy photos

Palm trees by the beach on Diego Garcia.

Force has four detachments on the island. Two detachments are a part of Air Force Space Command.

The 18th Space Surveillance Squadron, which falls under the 21st Space Wing, has a detachment that runs one of its four Ground Base Electro-Optical Deep Space Surveillance sites. The other Space Command unit is a detachment from 22nd Space Operations Squadron located at Schriever Air Force Base. It is an antenna site used for satellite command and control.

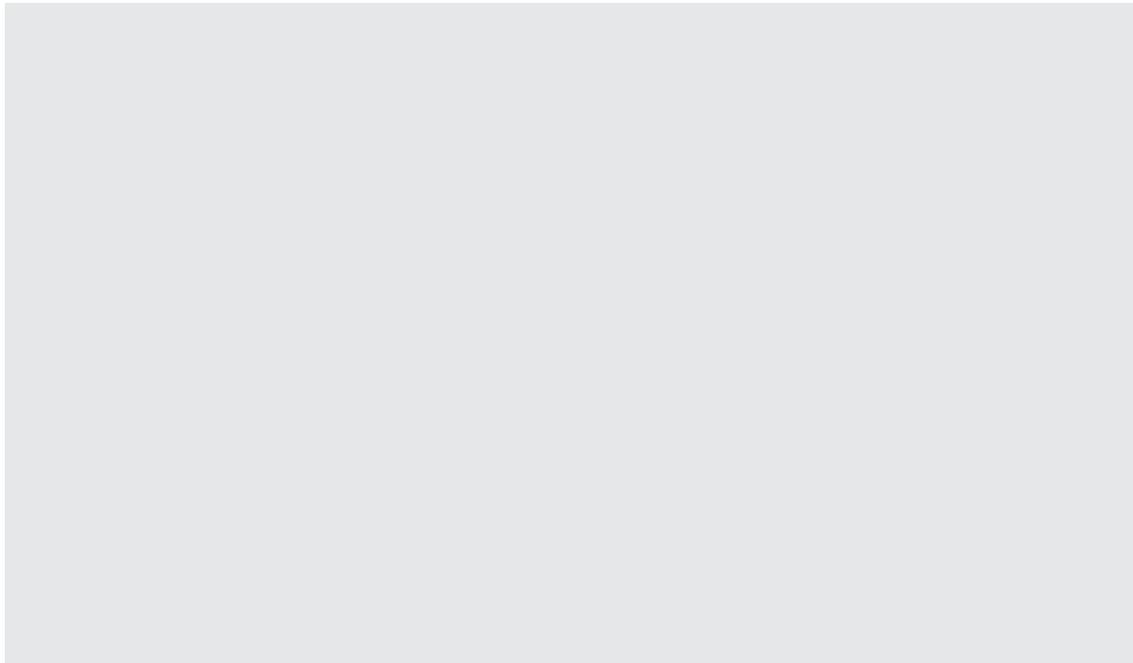
There is also a Pacific Air Forces detachment that maintains facilities for a forward deploying area, which entered use during the Gulf War. There is also an Air Mobility Command detachment that controls airlift to and from the island.

There are a total of about 26 Air Force personnel assigned here. Most of them are quality assure evaluators and support staff who oversee contractors performing most of the mission. The Air Force presence on the island is small in numbers, but we make our presence known by forming Air Force teams for the many activities taking place.

(Courtesy Det. 2, 18th SPSS)



Detachment 2, 18th Space Surveillance Squadron, Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory



September Article 15s, Courts Martial released

Base legal officials released the Courts-Martial and Article 15 actions for September. All members were tried under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

COURTS-MARTIAL

■ An airman first class assigned to Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, was tried by General Court-Martial for violation of Article 112a, wrongful use of a controlled substance, marijuana and psilocybin. The accused was also charged with wrongful possession of LSD.

The airman pleaded guilty to the charge and specifications for wrongful use of marijuana and possession of LSD. The airman pleaded not guilty for use of psilocybin but was found guilty.

The court sentenced the member to confinement for 9 months, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and reduction to the grade of airman basic.

■ An airman 1st class assigned to Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, was tried by General Court-Martial for violation of Article 112a, wrongful use of a controlled substance, marijuana and Ecstasy. The airman was also charged for violation of Article 123a, making, drawing, or uttering check, draft, or order without sufficient funds.

The accused pleaded guilty to the charge of wrongful use of marijuana and not guilty but guilty of the lesser offense of possession of Ecstasy.

The member was found guilty for possession of Ecstasy. The accused also pleaded guilty to writing bad checks.

The court sentenced the member to five months confinement, forfeiture of \$900 per month for five months, and reduction to the grade of airman basic.

■ An airman 1st class assigned to Peterson Air Force Base, was tried by

General Court-Martial for violation of Article 112a, wrongful use of a controlled substance, Ecstasy and LSD.

The accused was also charged with wrongful use of marijuana. However that charge was withdrawn. The airman pleaded guilty to the charges.

The court sentenced the member to a reduction to the grade of airman, forfeiture of \$300 per month for three months, restriction to the limits of Peterson AFB for 60 days, and hard labor without confinement for 60 days.

ARTICLES 15

■ A technical sergeant received an Article 15 for violation of Article 132, false or fraudulent claim.

The member received a reduction to the rank of staff sergeant, suspended forfeiture of \$500 pay for two months, and 30 days extra duty.

■ An airman 1st class received an Article 15 for violation of Article 92, dereliction of duty for willfully failing to complete an Air Force Form 3902, Off Duty Employment Authorization.

The member received forfeitures of \$200 pay, 14 days extra duty, and a reprimand.

■ A technical sergeant received an Article 15 for violation of Article 134, incapacitated for the proper performance of duty.

The member received a suspended reduction to the rank of staff sergeant and a reprimand.

■ A senior airman received an Article 15 for violation of Article 92, dereliction of duty for failing to report an accident he was involved in while driving a government vehicle.

The member received forfeitures of \$300 pay and a reprimand.

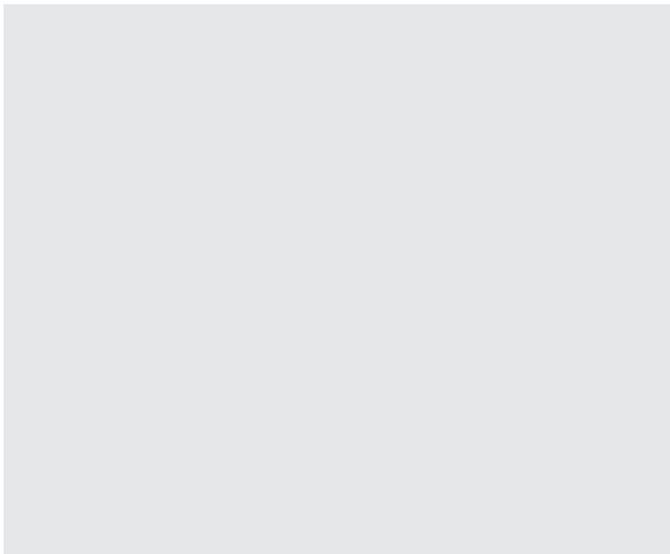
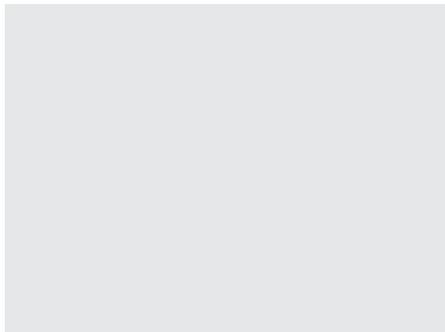
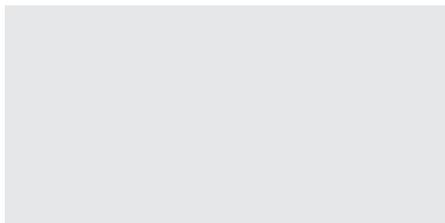
(Courtesy of the legal office)



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lee Osberry

Delta II launches

The 30th Space Wing launch team successfully launches a Boeing Delta II rocket carrying QuickBird, a high-resolution commercial imaging satellite, from Space Launch Complex-2 at Vandenberg AFB Oct. 19. The launch team provided critical launch and tracking services to help ensure public safety and mission assurance. Applications of the QuickBird satellite include mapping, urban planning, agricultural monitoring, environmental impact assessment, and disaster assessment and response.



For your information

Today

- Mothers on the Move, 9:30-10:30 a.m., at the Family Advocacy Center.
- Yoga, 12:05 p.m., at the Fitness Center.
- Lobster Night, by reservation only, at the Officers' Club. For reservations, call 556-4100.

Saturday

- Glow-in-the-dark bowling, 7-11 p.m., at the Bowling Center.

Sunday

- Gym 1 reopens.

Monday

- Mothers on the Move, 9:30-10:30 a.m., at the Family Advocacy Center.
- Resume Class, 9-11 a.m., at the Family Support Center.

Tuesday

- Sponsorship Training, 7:30-8:30 a.m., at the Family Support Center.
- Stress Management, 2:30-4 p.m. at the Education Center.
- Keystone Club meeting, 6 p.m., at the Youth Center.
- Karate, 5-7:30 p.m., at the Youth Center.



Courtesy photo

Halloween safety

With Halloween around the corner, the 21st Space Wing Safety Office reminds everyone on Wednesday, there will be a lot of children trick-or-treating, so to watch your speed in the housing area and most of all, don't drink and drive. Children are encouraged to carry a flashlight and wear light colored or reflective clothing when they are out and about. The hours for trick-or-treating on base are from 5:30-8 p.m.

- Estate Planning Seminar, 1-4 p.m., at the Family Support Center.
- JC Boyles, a pilot examiner from San Diego, Calif. will speak, 5:45 p.m., at the Aero Club.

Wednesday

- Mothers on the Move, 9:30-10:30 a.m., at the Family Advocacy Center.
- 21st Contracting Squadron will be

closed for offsite training. The office will reopen Thursday for normal business hours.

Thursday

- Play Group, 10:30 a.m.- noon, at the Chapel.
- Job Orientation, 1-2:30 p.m., at the Family Support Center.
- Karate, 5-7:30 p.m., at the Youth Center.

Nov. 2

- Yoga, 12:05 p.m., at the Fitness Center.
- Mothers on the Move, 9:30-10:30 a.m., at the Family Advocacy Center.
- Cash drawings, 5-7 p.m., at the clubs. Only members are eligible.

Helpful Numbers

- Family Advocacy Center 556-8943
- Education Center 556-4064
- Library 556-7462
- Community Center 556-7671
- Aquatics Center 556-4608
- Fitness Center 556-4462
- Officers' Club 556-4181
- Enlisted Club 556-4194
- Youth Center 556-7220
- Family Support Center 556-6141
- Chapel 556-4442

Community Notes

Community News

TRAGEDY SUPPORT GROUP: The Family Support Center is offering a support group for people who want to discuss the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

Coffee and cookies will be provided and participants may bring a lunch. Groups will meet Tuesdays and Fridays, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Family Support Center, Building 350, Room 1016.

For details, call 556-6141.

RECYCLING CENTER

RELOCATION: The Refuse and Recycling Center has relocated temporarily to the parking lot behind Building 678.

For details, call 556-1458.

AUTO SKILLS CENTER: The Auto Skills Center now offers emissions testing and VIN verification Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

ULTIMATE MEMBERSHIP

DRIVE: The 2001 Officer and Enlisted Club Ultimate Membership Drive continues through Nov. 18.

All club members who sign up during this time are eligible for automobiles that will be given away to club members.

For information about club membership, call one of the clubs. **CUSTOMER SERVICE IS ON-LINE:** Answers to commonly asked questions concerning Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance are available on-line at PeteCentral.

Education Center

MOVEMENT OF PETERSON CLASSES: All classes from the four on-base colleges and universities have

been moved off base to the Centennial Campus for the remainder of this term.

For more information, call Pikes Peak Community College at 574-1169. **CLASS WITHDRAWAL:** Any military member taking classes at Pikes Peak Community College can withdraw from classes because of real-world situations if they do the following:

- Complete a PPCC registration/class adjustment form to withdraw.
- Complete a tuition appeal form.
- Complete an Air Force form 118 and have it signed by a supervisor.
- Submit all paperwork to the PPCC representatives on Peterson.

For more information, call the education center at 556-4064.

CLEP AND DANTES: The education center has received many score reports that have not been picked up.

If you have not received a CLEP/DANTES score report from an exam that was taken in August or early September, stop by the Education Office between 9-10:30 a.m., or noon-1:30 p.m., on any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

Youth Center

BASKETBALL: Youth basketball sign-ups will begin Nov. 1.

COACHES NEEDED: Coaches are needed for youth baseball, soccer and basketball.

SOCCER SEASON: The youth soccer season starts Saturday.

Vote

ON BASE VOTING: Chap. (Maj.) Norman Ellis, base voting officer,

reminds everyone to vote.

Call the voting hotline number at 556-8683 or log on to the Federal Voting Assistance Program Website at www.fvap.ncr.gov.

CFC drive

CFC: The Combined Federal Campaign will run through Nov. 6.

The campaign helps a number of different charities and human assistance agencies.

The money is distributed to charitable agencies that donors designate to receive their contributions.

Right start

RIGHT START BRIEFING: The 21st Mission Support Squadron will have a Right Start briefing Tuesday, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at the Enlisted Club.

The event combines the Newcomer's Briefing and the Information Fair.

For more information, call 556-7525.

OSI investigation

OSI NEEDS YOUR HELP: The British Ministry of Defense Police and the Air Force Office of Special Investigations are investigating a company that rents vehicles to U.S. and other authorized personnel in and around the Royal Air Force Lakenheath, Alconbury and Mildenhall areas within the United Kingdom.

The company may have charged for damage to rental vehicles which did not occur.

If you think you have been defrauded by this company, call at 556-4347.

Chapel Schedule

Protestant Services

Liturgical Worship
8:15 a.m.

Traditional Sunday
Worship
11 a.m.

Gospel Services
12:30 p.m.

Sunday School
9:45 a.m.

Catholic Services

Mass

Weekdays
11:35 a.m.

Saturdays
5 p.m.

Sundays
9:30 a.m.

Reconciliation
Saturdays

4 p.m.

Religious Education

Adult and
pre K-12th grade

Sundays
8:30 a.m.

Are these passwords really necessary?

By Airman 1st Class Joseph Lionbarger
21st Communications Squadron

In an age where computers affect nearly every facet of our lives, we see more need than ever to protect the information in those systems. In the Air Force, we rely on the integrity of our information systems for everything from daily reports to missile and weapon control. That is why passwords are our last line of defense against those who want to exploit our secrets.

You may think you have nothing on your computer of intelligence value, but you still have a responsibility to protect the information. While information on your machine may not be of much use to anyone by itself, if it's combined with the information on other computers, it could be valuable.

For example, you may have information on your computer about an order you processed for 200 mobility bags. Alone, that probably wouldn't give away much about the operational status of our forces. However, if someone across base has information about transporting 200 people to the desert, those two pieces of information added to current news reports about growing tension between the U.S. and Country X could give away critical plans.

Thanks to those unrelated pieces of information, an enemy may discover that you will be sending 200 military members to the desert for a possible offensive or defensive strike.

Accidental release of this type of information can be prevented by proper password use. Passwords must be used every time you log onto your computer, and every time you leave your computer system unattended. According to Air Force Manual 33-223, your passwords must meet the following criteria:

- At least eight characters
- A mix of alpha-numeric characters
- At least one special character
- At least one upper and one lower case character
- Be changed every 90 days
- Old passwords must not be used for at least six months

Using these guidelines for password management can help to minimize, or eliminate, risk of inadvertent disclosure of information and successful penetration of our networks.

Things you should know about operations security

By Staff Sgt. Kathryn O'Neil
341st Operations Support Squadron

Imagine that it has been three years since you last traveled home. Now you're going and you can't wait to get on that plane and spend the next few weeks relaxing with friends and family. You board your plane and take your seat.

As the plane takes off a friendly gentleman next to you strikes up a conversation. He asks where you're going, who you'll see. You know, the normal airline chitchat. Then the conversation takes a turn and he asks about your job and the military.

What do you tell him? How many details can you give him? The Air Force created a program called Operations Security for just this sort of situation.

OPSEC is defined as the process to deny potential adversaries information about capabilities, and/or intentions by identifying, controlling, and protecting generally unclassified evidence of the planning and execution of military operations and sensitive activities.

In other words, OPSEC was created to identify information that could create make the Air Force vulnerable if known by the wrong people. So when the nice gentleman beside you asks questions about things like missile status, or how we launch a missile, think before you answer.

For example, you know that big inspection you just went through? OPSEC determines that information pertaining to a failure during an inspection is critical information and can't be made public because it provides information about base weaknesses.

This sort of information can give an adversary the upper hand, should a conflict arise, and it can also aid terrorists.

How do you know what job information is critical? Ask

your unit security manager. Every unit should have a list of critical information that pertains specifically to it. By finding out what information is critical to your unit, you can help prevent vulnerabilities.

The next time you're on a plane talking to someone, remember these guidelines before you answer any questions:

- Know your organization's information
- Understand how an adversary might try to get that critical information
- Stay OPSEC-minded

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Might have been you

By Staff Sgt. Owen Freeland
21 Space Wing Information Assurance Office

Have you ever tried to send or read e-mail only to find out that your server was down? If you wondered why, or thought it was the network folks' fault, you should be aware that it might have been you, the user, who was responsible.

Most server down-time is associated with classified information being passed over the unclassified network. You may think that is rare but, it's rather common.

When a confirmed classified e-mail is found on the network it sets in motion an exhausting chain of events. This affects not only each person associated with the contamination, but all other users on the server as well.

Discovery of a verified classified message on the NIPERNET will prompt the shutdown of the infected server so the network control center can find out who sent it and identify other servers and users affected by the contamination. Once the total scope of the contamination is known, the NCC can isolate the information, clean the servers and restore services.

How long service is down depends on the of scale of corruption. If any other bases are involved, notification also goes to them.

Contamination is considered classified until all people, organizations and bases have cleaned their computers. The help desk cannot disclose any information concerning the outage until the incident is closed. Each incident requires members to follow a notification process up the chain of command to the wing commander and to the network operation security center. Each and every incident is briefed in detail to the wing commander during the operations briefing.

There are some easy steps to ensure you won't cause a classified security incident.

Unclassified information can become classified when combined with other information. The cut and paste option that we all know and love is a major reason that unclassified e-mail becomes classified.

The key to preventing unintentional dissemination of classified e-mail is to understand the nature of the information, ask questions before you send a message.

A security classification guide will tell you if information is classified. For more information and to review a classification guide, see AFI 31-401, Information Security Program Management, and these are available through your unit compusec manager or the director of operation's office.

If you suspect you received a classified message don't forward it to anyone until you have verified its classification.

In the event that you have receive or cause a security incident, immediately disconnect and secure your computer, notify your UCM or ICSSO (define UCM and CSSO) and call your the 21 NET help desk.

Security incidents could affect any of us, but they can easily be prevented: be vigilant and know the sensitivity classification of the information you send. Always ask if you are unsure, and never send information you think may be classified. If you have questions call the 21st Space Wing information assurance office at (DSN) 834-8094.

Domestic violence is leading injury cause

By Capt. John Woods
810th Medical Operations Squadron

The leading cause of injury to American women between 15 and 44 years old is domestic violence, according to the National Bureau of Statistics. Statistics show domestic violence causes more injuries than car accidents, muggings and rapes combined.

The military community is not immune to the problem. During fiscal year 1999, there were more than 12,000 substantiated reports of domestic violence within the armed forces, and women weren't the only ones suffering from it. Men were also victims, according to Air Force Medical Operating Agency.

However, physical abuse is only one aspect of domestic violence. Emotional and sexual abuse can also occur in relationships. Emotional abuse often occurs in the form of behaviors such as destroying property, saying demeaning or threatening things to family members, or hurting pets. Sexual abuse is forcing someone to perform sexual acts they don't want to do, whether physically or through intimidation. These are all examples of family violence and result in a very unhealthy family environment.

Family Advocacy offers many programs to teach people ways to improve communication and to develop skills needed to solve problems without resorting to violence. While education aims at preventing violence, it doesn't break the cycle of domestic violence once it has already begun. Research indicates that families with physical, emotional or sexual abuse dynamics are very unlikely to get better without intervention. Typically these patterns intensify over time and the violence escalates.

Often, people in violent relationships don't realize how unhealthy the relationship is, or that they are a victim. Feelings of failure, loneliness, guilt, helplessness and lack of love can be powerful motivators in a person's life. Sometimes, victims simply won't leave because they have no money, or place to go.

Domestic violence is a real danger for military spouses. For many being geographically separated from family members and moving every few years makes it hard to build support systems. For military spouses in foreign countries who don't speak the local language, violence in the relationship leaves the spouse particularly isolated and vulnerable.

There are three important things victims of domestic violence need to know: They're not alone, they're not to blame, and help is available. No one deserves to be abused. If you think you may be in an abusive relationship, please consider the following warning signs:

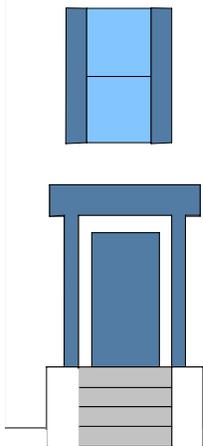
Early Warning Signs

- Abuse during courtship

- Alcohol or drug abuse
- Background of family violence
- Minimizing effects of violence
- Denial of problem
- Difficulty handling frustration
- Extreme jealousy
- Mental abuse
- Need to control
- Sexual abuse
- Threats of violence
- Verbal abuse

Other indicators

- Are you afraid to do the "wrong" thing, even if you're not sure what that is?
 - Does your partner watch your every move?
 - Do you feel sexually ashamed or humiliated, or are you being sexually hurt?
 - Does your partner refuse to help when you're sick, injured or pregnant?
 - Does he or she put you down at home or in public?
 - Do you avoid discussing some subjects because you're afraid of your partner's reaction?
 - Does your partner place excessive limits on things you do, such as how much time you have to do errands or to see friends?
 - Does your partner accuse you of being unfaithful, crazy, worthless?
 - Has he or she injured you physically, no matter how slightly?
 - Do you live in constant fear for yourself or your children?
- Nobody deserves to be abused. If you are abused protect yourself and your children. Seek help, preferably for you and your partner, but at least for yourself.
- Finally, Family Advocacy is here to support military families and offers many classes designed to enhance family living, including communication training, parenting classes, anger and stress management,



Where to get help

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. If you are in an abusive relationship, here's where to get help.

Peterson AFB Family Advocacy 556-8943
El Paso County Center for the

Prevention of Domestic Violence 633-3819
El Paso County Sheriff's Office

Victim Assistance Program 520-7272

National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-7233

Child Abuse Hotline (day) 444-5700
(after hours) 475-9593

and new parents support programs. No documentation goes into a medical record for those who voluntarily attend any educational or support classes.

Treatment programs are designed to help couples identify patterns that lead to escalating fighting and the subsequent maltreatment of a loved one. If you are being hurt in your relationship, the treatment program can help you.

For more information about both Family

Do you have a story idea? Let us know. E-mail us at space.observer@peterson.af.mil or call us at 556-8476.

Who We Are

By Paul Stone
American Services Press Service

WASHINGTON -- In his book "For Cause & Comrades, Why Men Fought in the Civil War," historian James McPherson relates a rather troubling, yet thought-provoking comment from then-Army Chief of Staff Gen. John Wickham.

During a visit to the Antietam Civil War battlefield in the 1980s, Wickham was struck by what he saw as the intense sense of duty and purpose of Civil War soldiers. Looking out on an area called "Bloody Lane," where several assaults by Union soldiers had resulted in tremendous casualties before they finally broke through, Wickham said: "You couldn't get American soldiers today to make an attack like that."

The general's seemingly simple and straightforward observation jumped off the page and struck me as immensely profound. For it speaks volumes about who we are, as individuals, as a society and as a nation.

One could easily dismiss the statement by arguing soldiers today wouldn't make such sacrifices today because modern weapons and tactics make them unnecessary. One could similarly argue Civil War soldiers faced unique circumstances.

First, the issues they confronted had deep emotional roots, involving the survival or destruction of entrenched economic, social and political patterns and institutions. Secondly, the conflict was on our own soil. For many Civil War soldiers it was in their own backyard. Thus, it could be said soldiers were driven to take greater risks because the stakes were so high. The Civil War was indeed personal.

Although valid, these arguments are but a superficial view of Wickham's statement. He was not comparing Civil War tactics to modern warfare. He wasn't even talking about passions of the Civil War. He was talking about commitment, sacrifice, and the ability to understand when we are involved in events transcending our own lives and personal interests.

Given our society's penchant for instant gratification and intolerance to personal inconvenience, the former general's remarks seem to ring true. With worldwide communication, endless entertainment and limitless recreational possibilities at our fingertips, commitment and sacrifice, are increasingly foreign to our lives. We don't even want to know what's happening around the corner, never mind in our individual states, the nation or the world. As our access to the world has expanded, we have retreated, seeking insulation and consolation from all the people, events and issues which demand our time, energy and involvement.

Yet the ability to look beyond our own lives and personal interests, to become involved and make sacrifices, are characteristics we can ill afford to lose. For they affect every aspect of our lives and, in doing so, affect the state of our families, our communities, the nation as a whole and the world in general.

These are the characteristics that make parents role models and mentors to their children. They are the characteristics that make athletes Olympic champions. And they are the characteristics that make soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines heroes.

They turn dreams into imagination, innovation and invention. They turn fear into courage and action. And they transform self-involvement into selfless service.

It is not uncommon for leaders nearing retirement to reflect on our history, as well as their personal experiences, and to sentimentally pronounce that we are less than they were. And perhaps that's what the general was doing when he made his comment at Antietam.

Then again, perhaps he was issuing us a challenge.

Regardless, it deserves our thought.

Americans show strength together

By Airman 1st Class
Heather McMahan
36th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam -- As tragedy struck the United States Sept. 11, the world watched in horror. Many world leaders have expressed sorrow and support for Americans. Citizens of different countries have laid flowers in front of U.S. embassies and prayed for the victims of this act of violence and for their families.

As I watched from the other side of the world, I felt helpless, sad and scared, but most of all, angry. As a member of the Air Force and more importantly, a citizen of the United States of America, I watched as my life, my world and the country I love was violated and changed forever.

When I joined the military, I made the choice to give my life for my country if need be, but many of the people who died or were injured in this attack did not make that choice. They, in the course of an hour, became the reason I joined the military. I don't know their names, I don't know their faces, I was not their friend, but I was and still am willing to fight for the freedom they enjoyed, the freedom that was taken from them.

A friend of mine in Illinois wrote this for me, but it applies to all of us. "During this crisis time I can't help but thank you for being part of our nation's military, protecting your family, friends, acquaintances and strangers all across this country. You have made a choice to work within an organization, devoting

several years of your life to service, so that we may enjoy the freedoms our predecessors secured for us.

"This week I have battled with the questions, 'Why haven't I done the same? Why am I not serving my country?' I have come up empty every time. I have tremendous respect for you and all of your fellow comrades for holding this nation together. I know that I have you, as the military acts as one across the world to do what is necessary to protect all of us from further terrorist acts."

Reflecting on what my friend wrote, I came to the conclusion that the rescue workers, firefighters, police and many comrades in arms are the true heroes. They are working countless hours to help clear out the rubble in hope of finding survivors.

As days go by the world seems to become calm. The sorrow is still there, so is the anger, sadness and confusion. But as Americans, we seem to stand together, stronger, and willing to fight -- to fight for the freedom and for the honor of those who died in this tragedy.

I am willing to do whatever it takes to bring those responsible for the loss of American lives to justice. I will follow President George W. Bush, my commander-in-chief, in bringing that justice for the world.

I say to those who attacked our great country, you tried to break us with your evil acts, you tried to bring us to our knees, but you will learn, we do not break and we will stand taller. The lesson you taught us was that, even in the face of tragedy, America shines bright.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Suzy Kohout

Gotcha!

Rob Ramirez, 21st SW/JA, grabs the flag of James Briones, Team Colorado, during intramural flag football action last week. Team Colorado won the game.

Air Force team climbs in Eco-Challenge standings

SAN ANTONIO -- With 60 miles of hiking, mountaineering and rafting behind them -- but still facing 170 more miles of treacherous racing -- 'Team America's Air Force' has pulled into 13th place at the 2001 Eco-Challenge being held in New Zealand.

Eco-Challenge, the world's premier expedition race, is held annually in a remote region of the world and attracts the best adventure athletes from around the globe.

Team America's Air Force, which won the Armed Forces Eco-Challenge in Alaska in June, consists of three pararescuemen and a communications officer. They are: Tech. Sgt. Ken Fournier, 38th Rescue Squadron, Moody Air Force Base, Ga.; Senior Master Sgt. Skip Kula and Staff Sgt. David Shuman, 210th RS, Kulis Air National Guard Base, Anchorage, Alaska; and 1st Lt. Rebecca

King, 611th Air Communications Flight, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.

The race started Oct. 21 at New Zealand's Tekapo Military Camp. Since then, competitors have trekked around hills on horseback and on foot, crossed mountain peaks and faced river rapids -- and the race is not over yet. There are still many days left as the team members must climb snow-capped mountains, rappel sheer cliff faces, raft through raging whitewater and ride bikes on rocky trails, all while navigating with only compasses and orienteering skills.

It is expected to take the teams five to 12 days to cover the entire course around New Zealand's Mount Cook, competing virtually nonstop. Six of the original 73 teams have already dropped out because of injuries.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)



Courtesy photo

With 60 miles of hiking, mountaineering and rafting behind them -- but still facing 170 more miles of treacherous racing -- Team America's Air Force has pulled into 13th place at the 2001 Eco-Challenge being held in New Zealand.

Sports

Shorts

CMAFS wally ball tournament- A wally ball tournament is scheduled for Nov 5-7, 10 a.m.- 1 p.m., at the Technical Support Facility, Cheyenne Mountain. The cost is \$10 per team.

For details, call the Fitness Center at 556-1515.

3-on-3 basketball tournament- A 3-on-3 basketball tournament is scheduled for Nov. 12-15, 5-8 p.m., at the Fitness Center.

The entry fee is \$10 per team. Deadline for registration is Nov. 2.

For more information, call the Fitness Center at 556-1515.

3-point shootout - A 3-point basketball shootout is set for Nov 15, 11 a.m., at the Fitness Center. The entry fee is \$2 per person. Call 556-1515 for more information.

CMAFS 10K fun run- A 10K fun run is slated for Nov. 9, 11:30 a.m., at the Technical Support Facility at Cheyenne Mountain. The cost is \$1.

For details, call the Fitness Center at 556-1515.

Taekwondo returns- The Fitness Center has a new Taekwondo instructor. Classes are held Tuesdays and Thursday at the Fitness Center.

Call 556-1515 for details.

Challenge patches- Earn 14er Challenge patches, one for each of the 56 Colorado peaks over 14,000 feet, on the climbing wall at the fitness center.

Call 556-1515 for details.

Personal trainers- Personal trainers are available to assist Peterson Complex members.

For more information, call 556-4462.

Youth council members needed- The Youth Center

needs volunteers to form the Peterson Air Force Base Youth Sports Council.

For details, call the Youth Center at 556-7220.

Youth coaches needed- Coaches for youth outdoor soccer, basketball and baseball are still needed.

If you are interested in becoming a coach, call Les Stewart at 556-7220.

Youth basketball registration- Registration for youth basketball begins Nov. 1 at the Youth Center. Practices will start in December, with the season starting Jan. 1.

Volksmarch- The Falcon Wanderers Volksmarch Club of Colorado Springs is sponsoring a 5K and 10K volksmarch Saturday. Marchers can start the trek between 8 a.m. and noon.

For more details, call Jan Converse at 591-8193.